

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
FULL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
October 26, 2005, 4:30 p.m. Council Chambers

PRESENT

Cindy Felsten
Greg Lewis
Chrystal Pushor
John Roberts
Barbara Stevens

ABSENT

Gil Palmer
Ian Kohen
Jay Myers
Wes Roy
Marie Schroeder
Jason Staley

The meeting was unofficial; a quorum was not present.

STAFF PRESENT:

Director Arlette Tinsley, Deputy Director Lorraine Smith, Secretary Lula Young.

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Commissioner Pushor called roll. No motion to accept the September minutes due to the lack of a quorum.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Commissioner Felsten reported no changes in the account, balance remains at \$6,199.02.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Director Tinsley updated Commissioners on caseload status. Commissioner Felsten successfully mediated two complaints based on national origin in public accommodation. A sex in employment complaint was accepted.

Multiple trainings and presentations have occurred. Deputy Director Smith trained IMPACT, a human resources sub-group of the Indiana Association of Cities and Towns organization; attended a grant writing training sponsored by the Heritage Fund and the installation of Larry Rowe as the pastor of Second Baptist Church. She also gave remarks at the locally hosted state conference of the NAACP.

Director Tinsley advised Commissioners of the one and a half-day BCSC Anti-Bullying training she was invited to participate in. She received a new request from Alison McKay, BCSC's ESL coordinator for three schools, and Lt. Olivo to train ESL students on the BCSC complaint process. Director Tinsley also provided part of the presentation at the BCSC school board meeting as part of the Anti-Bullying taskforce; attended a Diversity Leadership Task Force, a 14-agency group; and the Hispanic Health Summit at Columbus Regional Hospital. She will provide a presentation for the Domestic Violence Action Team and Turning Point on Bullying & Harassment held at the Center for Teaching and Learning. Partners in Education requested she do a presentation on the legal perspective 'On Being Gay'.

Director Tinsley requested Commissioners begin consideration of upcoming goals and objectives for 2006 as they will need to be voted on at the next meeting, November 30th, as the information will be needed for the Annual Report to the Mayor which is typically due in early December.

OPEN FORUM

COMMUNITY CONCERNS/UPDATES:

Commissioner Lewis provided an overview of the Native American presentation at Ivy Tech, led by Debra Haza, which had good attendance. Commissioners participated in additional discussion.

Commissioner Stevens attended an evening with the author, James Alexander Thom. The event also had good attendance. Most of the audience asked questions about Thom's research techniques.

Director Tinsley provided Commissioners with a status report on the Police Department's current hiring process.

ANNUAL DINNER:

Director Tinsley advised Commissioners that a proposal was sent to the executive assistant of Tavis Smiley but the office has not received a response. Commissioners were encouraged to recommend alternative speakers and review submitted information on Monica Kaufman Pearson and Gerardo Gonzales, recommended by Commissioners Roberts and Lewis, respectively.

ESSAY/POSTER ART CONTEST:

Director Tinsley advised that she and Deputy Director Smith are considering Bullying and Peer Harassment as potential topics. Other communities have utilized a billboard art contest supporting the recent anti-bullying legislation.

ACTION ITEM: CHICAGO POLICE TRAINING VIDEO:

Commissioners viewed segments of the religious diversity training video utilized by the Chicago Police department. Director Tinsley stated that Chief McCord and Lt. Olivo had approved the video for use during the CHRC's annual training for the Columbus Police Department.

Director Tinsley asked Commissioners if they would be available for the November 30th meeting. Commissioners Pushor and Roberts advised they would not be available. Commissioners Lewis, Felsten and Stevens advised they would be available.

Meeting adjourned.